

P.O. Box 5759 Walnut Creek, CA 94596 925-933-2627 www.youthhomes.org

Please note: For confidentiality purposes, no photographs of current foster children are featured in this brochure unless consent was provided.

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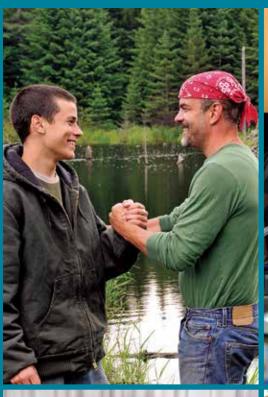
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SELEBRATING OUR CELEBRATING OU



YOUTH HOMES CHANGING CHILDREN'S LIVES FOR FIFTY YEARS

YOUTH HOMES









OUR MISSION Youth Homes, Inc. provides a safe place for foster youth to heal and grow.

OUR VISION Our vision is a world where former foster kids lead healthy, productive and whole lives.

TO OUR SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS

My goodness what a year it has been! In 2015, we celebrate 50 years of serving severely traumatized children and this milestone has only been made possible by our community supporters. We strive to acknowledge and honor your kindness by working to improve our services to meet the needs of foster youth and their families.

We continue to grow in a measured and steady pace with our county contracts increasing year over year. It is a reflection of the esteem our county partners place in the work of our skilled and dedicated employees.

In 2014-15, we revamped our workforce development program and quickly saw marked success. Within seven months, 54% of those in the program were employed. We continue to emphasize the importance of education and thanks to the Youth Homes' Auxiliary, in partnership with Alamo Women's Club, 16 college scholarships were awarded. The clients in our residential and Aftercare Program have achieved an 85% high school graduation rate and 42% of our transition-age youth are enrolled in college or trade school, far higher than the national statistics for foster youth.

We now have just over 100 staff and have expanded and formalized a comprehensive training program during the onboarding process. The knowledge base for treating traumatized children is expanding rapidly. Enhanced coordination of our training program allows our staff to continue to receive continuing education on the latest proven therapeutic approaches as well as take refresher courses on methodologies such as

Nurtured Heart and Pro-Act. The staff's appreciation in our interest in their growth and development was exemplified with Youth Homes being selected to be one of the "Top 100 Places to Work" by the Bay Area News Group. It is quite an honor!

Our Board of Directors has continued to grow with each new member bringing an extraordinary background and skill to our management team. In keeping with being a nationally accredited agency, our Board has paid particular attention to the risk management issues inherent in operating 24-hour residential care. This is no easy feat. In addition, their leadership and willingness to fully engage in fund development continues to transform our agency in so many positive ways.

Last, but certainly not least, we finished the year in a financially strong position. Our endowment is growing as a result of our *Living Legends* — estate and planned giving donors. This will ensure the organization is in operation as long as there are foster youth in our community. With the support of our donors, our Board of Directors, volunteers and staff, we continue to transform the lives of foster youth, all of whom deserve to have a brighter future. *Thank you for your continued belief in our work*.

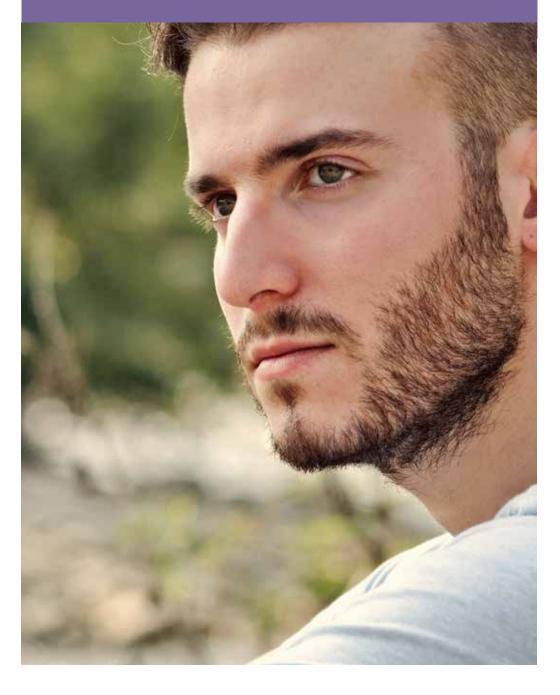
Sincerely,

Stuart McCullough, Chief Executive Officer

MeCo

"WHEN I WAS IN THE GROUP HOME, WE WANTED TO BE MOVIE STARS AND CELEBRITIES. NOW, I WANT TO GO TO COLLEGE, GET MARRIED, AND HAVE CHILDREN. I JUST WANT A NORMAL LIFE."

Danie



THE COMMON THREAD*

You would pass him on the road and not give it a second thought, because Daniel looks like a typical twenty-something in his red and black motorcycle jacket carrying himself with confidence and purpose. Take the time to ask him a question though, and Daniel will articulately describe, well beyond his years, the transformation he has been through. Coming from a home of abuse, drugs, and prostitution, Daniel came to Youth Homes when he was I2 and after multiple placements.

e had a dreary outlook on the foster care system because he felt like a "stack of binders that no one took the time to really get to know." Reflecting back, Daniel stated, "I just needed a hug. I needed someone to let me talk."

Daniel first came to Youth Homes' Crisis Assessment Shelter for 8 months, the longest period of time Daniel spent in one place. He returned to Youth Homes at 18 years old and lived at Cherry Lane, one of Youth Homes' therapeutic group homes. After transitioning out of Cherry Lane, he informally maintained contact with Jeffrey, a clinical supervisor of our Aftercare Program for transition-age youth. It wasn't until Daniel was 25 years old that he recognized Youth Homes had provided the most consistent care in his life; a vital thread since the age of 12. After years of contact with Jeffrey, Daniel was ready to formally return and participate in the TAY FSP program, which delivers support services for transition age youth to foster their independence.

Today, Daniel is working two jobs while enrolled at Diablo Valley Junior College where he plans to pursue a degree in accounting. Daniel shared, "When I was in the group home, we wanted to be movie stars and celebrities. Now, I want to go to college, get married, and have children. I just want a normal life."

^{*}See an actual photograph of Daniel on the inside back cover of this report.

FINDING INNER STRENGTH

Nicole's father died when she was a child. Her mother re-married a man in jail. As Nicole reports, her mother did not protect her children as she should have. As a result, at IO years old, Nicole entered the foster care system. By the age of I6, she had been in four group homes and one foster family before coming to Andersen House, Youth Homes' all-girls therapeutic group home in Concord.

icole was scared at first about being at Andersen House and admits to having her "ups and downs." But eventually she felt the support of the staff. "They taught me I could do what I put my mind to. I had to believe in myself." While at Andersen, her grades started to improve and she stopped getting into fights at school. She realized she liked school and was a good student.

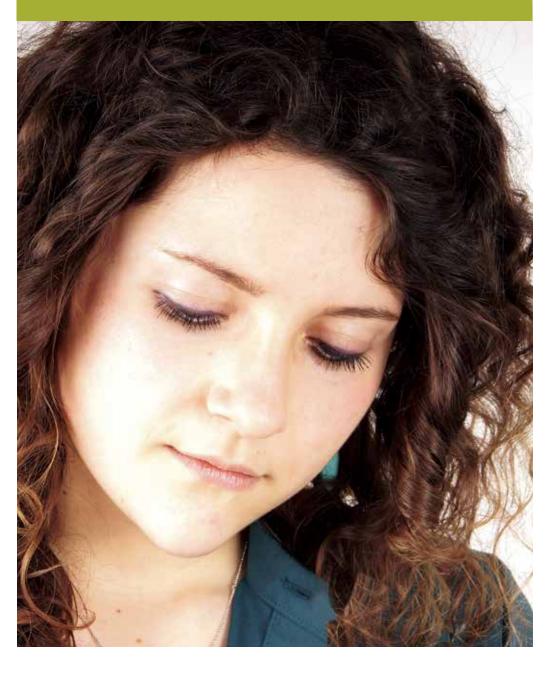
When Nicole was in a healthy and stable state, one of her goals was to see her mother again, who she hadn't seen since she was 10 years old. With the guidance and support of Crystal, a clinician at Andersen House, the court eventually granted her supervised visits with her mom. Nicole reflects that since being reunited, she has "learned a lot from my mom and about her. People make mistakes. I had to forgive her." Today, they continue to have bi-weekly therapy sessions to work on their relationship.

This young woman is full of spunk and immense insight into the transformation she has been through. "Let the people here help you; that's why they are here. Life gets hard, but you'll get through it if you learn to express yourself to others," advises the 17 year old.

Nicole's next step will be graduating from Andersen House and moving into transitional housing. She will continue to be part of the Youth Homes family through the Aftercare Program which supports transition age youth's path to independence. Her Aftercare clinician will continue to be her cheerleader and advisor as she works towards her goal of attending college and eventually becoming a judge.

"LET THE PEOPLE HERE HELP YOU; THAT'S WHY THEY ARE HERE. LIFE GETS HARD, BUT YOU'LL GET THROUGH IT IF YOU LEARN TO EXPRESS YOURSELF TO OTHERS."

Nicole



THROUGH HARD WORK WITH HER SUPERVISOR AND GRADUAL STEPS TOWARD HOME, JACKIE LEARNED HOW TO CHANGE HER VALUES AND HER PERCEPTION OF WHAT FAMILY LIFE MEANS.

Jackie



REUNIFYING A FAMILY

As a child, Jackie had a difficult time, which often manifested itself through extreme anger. At I3 years old, when she became too much of a safety risk to herself and others, Jackie was placed in Youth Homes' East Bay Shelter, a short-term crisis assessment shelter, to determine what services Jackie needed to help her return home safely. Not only did this shake up Jackie's world, but all of the resources her grandmother had advocated for up to this point came to a screeching halt.

s Jackie's grandmother shared the story of the journey they had been through, she sat beaming with pride because of the hard work both she and Jackie had done to get their relationship to where it is today.

Jackie went through some highs and lows before finding stability at Youth Homes. She began to work with Carrie, a clinical supervisor, on the goal of reunification with her grandmother. Jackie worked remarkably hard on her therapeutic goals over the next few months. During her time with Youth Homes, she was introduced to horse therapy and boxing as a means to manage her anger. Her behavioral improvements led to more frequent and less supervised visits with her grandmother.

Meanwhile, with the help of Carrie, her grandmother rebuilt her entire network of support for Jackie. She knew it was critical to have certain therapeutic services and an individualized education plan in place in order to increase the likelihood of success upon reunification.

After eight months of hard work, Jackie returned home with her grandmother and two younger cousins. Today, they are learning how to function as a renewed family unit and continuing to use the coping skills and resources to maintain a healthy level of functioning.

INSPIRING INDEPENDENCE

After two years and I4 placements in the foster care system, Billy came to Cherry Lane, one of Youth Homes' therapeutic group homes. For the first time at a group home, Billy felt a connection with the staff. "I could tell the staff cared about kids and weren't in it for the money. It's different here."

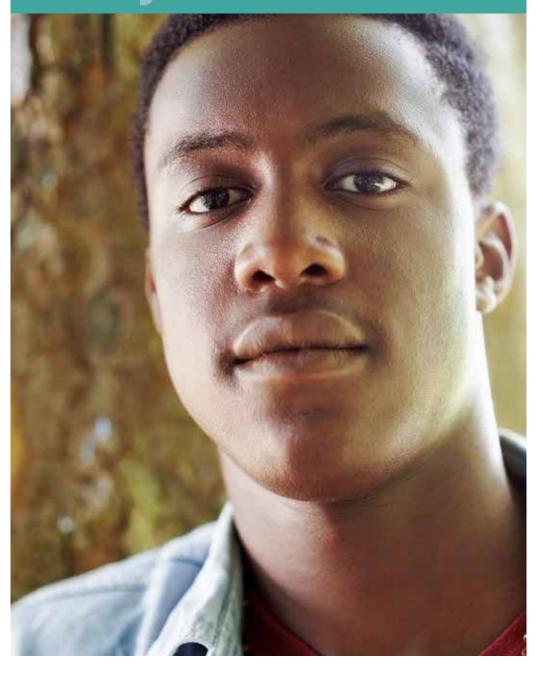
illy is a driven and persistent young man. He credits landing his job at a local grocery store with going every day. "I just kept on bugging them," he said. After being in the position for less than a year, Billy was promoted and took on additional responsibilities. He recognizes the importance of saving money so he is prepared when he ages out of the foster care system. Billy does not have parents or relatives to fall back on in an emergency. He is focused on his independence and is taking advantage of the support offered by the staff at Cherry Lane as he learns the skills that will ensure his success as an adult. Fortunately, he will continue in Youth Homes Aftercare Program, upon aging out of the foster care system to help the transition to adulthood.

Billy's success has given him a good perspective on foster care and boosted his confidence. When asked what his proudest moment is to-date, he lights up and responds, "When I was invited to go to Sacramento to advocate for foster care youth's rights and I got to meet Senator Jeff Stone. That was cool."

After high school graduation, Billy would like to major in computer science with a minor in political science at a four year college. He plans to enroll in the ROTC program to help fund his college education. With the drive and persistence of this young man, Billy is on track for a bright future.

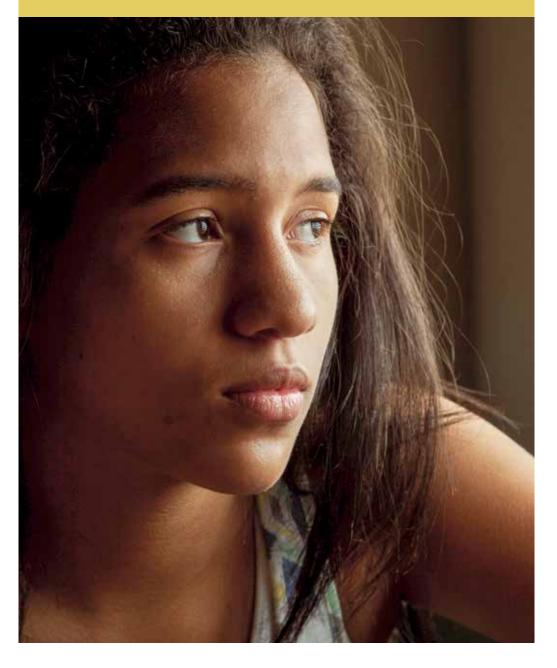
"WHEN I WAS INVITED TO GO TO SACRAMENTO TO ADVOCATE FOR FOSTER CARE YOUTH'S RIGHTS AND I GOT TO MEET SENATOR JEFF STONE — THAT WAS COOL."

Billy



"HOLDING ON TO ANGER ONLY HOLDS YOU BACK FROM MOVING FORWARD. FORGIVENESS IS A VALUABLE GIFT, NOT JUST FOR OTHERS BUT FOR YOU, TO EMBRACE."

Nisa



LIMITLESS*

If you witness Nisa performing her spoken word on stage, chills will travel down your spine. It's a combination of the energy in her delivery and the profound content of her poetry. Through spoken word, Nisa has found a healthy form of expression. She gives her audience a glimpse into her beautiful mind and soul.

Ithough a child herself, Nisa was forced into the role of being a parent in her home as a result of having a mother with substance abuse issues. When she entered the foster care system at the age of 14 and suddenly had rigid rules placed upon her, she rebelled. She became a client of Youth Homes Therapeutic Behavioral Services when she was a teenager and eventually formed a connection with counselor Shaunte. Shaunte gave her valuable tools to find healthy ways of coping with anger and set boundaries. One tactic Shaunte used was to buy cheap plates and let Nisa throw them against the wall. Looking back on this, Nisa laughs at the exercise but recognizes the symbolism behind it: she was angry about her past and she needed to get it out in order to move on.

Nisa attributes part of her success to the ability to forgive. She has learned that "holding on to anger only holds you back from moving forward. Forgiveness is a valuable gift, not just for others but for you, to embrace."

Nisa now works as a teaching assistant. She would like to pursue a degree in Sociology and ultimately become a social worker to help kids cope with challenges as she has. And, of course, continue to write poetry.

^{*}See an actual photograph of Nisa on the inside back cover of this report. Limitless is the name of one of Nisa's most popular spoken word poems.

OUTH HOMES

50 YEARS. MANY KIDS. SUCCESS STORIES

GALORE. It's Youth Homes' golden anniversary — 50 years of investing in young people, helping them build healthy, successful lives. But even though it's Youth Homes 50th anniversary, we're celebrating the real gold — the promise and potential of the young people we serve. In our 50-year history, we've identified, nurtured, and cultivated the golden opportunities young people deserve. Moment by moment, day by day, year by year, with your help and support — just look at what we've done together.

YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE FRIENDS Relationships make the difference for our young people. It's all about community whether it's an "all-hands" work day to jump-start a new garden or fundraising to support programs, our partners local businesses, companies, faith-based groups, and friends from everywhere — provide essential support. Youth Homes supporters are all-in.

HOME, SWEET HOME

Home to the power of 4 and counting. Our homes provide safety, security, and opportunity to grow.

DID YOU KNOW? Plant some seeds, an orchard flourishes. Youth Homes opened our first group home in 1965 with \$15,000 in seed money. That "can do" spirit ensures Youth Homes can say



Sweet words, right? In its first year of operation, 54% of our youth in the Workforce Development program landed a permanent job.

Recovering from trauma and building a healthy life takes time and skill. Youth Homes delivers: 14,000 mental health sessions every year.

LOOK AT YOU! Kids often arrive at Youth Homes with nothing more than a grocery sack of belongings. Step toward success? Clothes (and shoes!) that fit and boost their confidence. It's time to shop.



GREEN THUMB How does a garden flourish? Pretty close to how young people flourish — cultivation, the right nutrients, attention. Youth Homes kids internalize those lessons via a summer gardening project. The outcome: Life lesson, practical skills, and a solid work experience for the resume.

RECOVERY BY HEART 110 staff members provide the highlyeffective social and emotional Nurtured

Heart program for our residents.

10-26 celebrate From fourth-graders to young adults,

Youth Homes provides continuity and age-appropriate support for our kids.

It's an extended family at Youth Homes. We serve more than 600

Not only does YH outperform California public schools in graduation rate, but

"yes" to meeting ongoing and new needs for young people at risk.

SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS How do we know the Youth Homes programs work? We measure our success in behavioral changes —

from high school or GED completion to first job — through our Continuous Quality Improvement program.

\geq

Alan and Joy

Young establish Youth Homes after raising funds to open its first group home in Contra Costa County.



Youth Homes Auxiliary established its own respective 501c3 supporting Youth Homes initiatives.

First and second group home opened caring for unwed mothers and teenage girls referred by the



Capital campaign launched to raise \$100K. Funds used to burn the home mortgages

1970

Third group home opened for neglected children

Youth Homes

partners with Diablo Valley Community College and its Association of Students to open a day care to be a training center for students seeking nursery school assistant certificate

of achievement

Three more shelters opened

Four group homes

Because different kids have different

needs, we have 11 programs to guide

each of them toward a better future.

CARE & CARING

Youth Homes staff is on the

case, 24/7, 365 days a year.

open

1976-81 First formalized

program for transition aged youth to help secure employment, housing and other needs to support their transition

1979

donated by William Andersen, in memory of his late wife Ruth, a county

Cherry Lane opens

and houses youth

transition out of

preparing to

Andersen House

Fifteen residential homes in operation

Parenting workshops started as focus shifts to also address families' needs

1982-87

1996

Pryor House, named after former Executive **Director Richard** Pryor, opens as a result of Youth Homes receiving

a contract to become the crisis assessment shelter provider for Contra Costa

County

The Mentoring Program launches under the leadership of Board of Directors member, Linda Peterson

2000

Therapeutic Behavioral Program (TBS) established, becoming Youth Homes' first mental health contract

Aftercare Program launched to help transition age youth gain the skills to become healthy and productive adults

Foster Family Agency opens to provide youth a lower level of care with a foster family

East Bay Shelter

OUR HEROES

providing Youth their first job

2010 Organic garden program launched Homes foster youth the chance to have

Transition Age

Thanks to the generous, ongoing support of the Youth Homes Auxiliary, more than

\$300,000 has been invested in programs and services for our kids. From holiday

Youth Homes Youth Full Service receives COA Program (TAY FSP) Accreditation. launched serving foster youth with pilot program co-morbidity of launched to help mental health and foster youth stay on substance abuse track academically



Your cake, your candle, your celebration. Every kid deserves a joyous birthday — with support from the Auxiliary.

OUR FLOCK

kids and their families each year,

MOVING UP

surprises to innovative job-preparation programs, the Auxiliary has been the rock pro-42% of our Aftercare clients are in college viding stability and continuity for Youth Homes. Auxiliary members, you are our heroes! or vocational school.

2014

Antioch High School





FINANCIALS 2014-2015

Youth Homes continues to expand its programs and serve more children each year. In 2014-15, we launched a pilot program at Antioch High School and reorganized our workforce development program, both quickly showing significant positive impact on the children. Our programs for transition age youth grew as demonstrated by an increase in

the county contracts for services. Our residential homes operated at over 90% capacity year round. Lastly, our clinical outcomes continue to rank far above the national average for foster programs. Fundraising continues to play a critical role in the financial success of the organization and allows Youth Homes to provide optimal services and care for our children.

SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT ON OPERATIONS (unaudited)

		2015	2014
Revenue			
	Program Income & Gov't Funds	\$6,238,624	\$5,564,880
	Contributions (Net)	446,936	491,759
	Special Event (Net) Revenue	134,485	121,307
	In-Kind Donations	112,821	100,874
	Total Operating Revenue	\$6,932,866	\$6,278,820
Expenses			
	Programs	\$5,641,494	\$5,075,839
	Administrative and General	970,903	1,038,042
	Fundraising	239,502	199,373
	Total Operating Expenses	\$6,851,899	\$6,313,254
Non-Operating Items			
	Non-Operating Income	\$ 3,424	\$ 99,261
	Investment Related Income	6,353	35,090
	Bequests	10,000	320,189
	Total Non-Operating Items	\$ 19,777	\$ 454,540
Net Surplus (Unrestricted)		\$ 100,744	\$ 420,106
Change in Temp Restricted		25,619	28,680
Change in Perm Restricted		(22,359)	13,682
Total Change in Net Assets		\$ 104,004	\$ 462,468

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Retired Development Officer

Alan Bonny

Vice President
Strategic Account Executive,
BMC Software

Kang Lim

Secretary/Treasurer Attorney at Law, Law Office of Kang S. Lim

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Stuart McCullough

Chief Executive Officer, Youth Homes, Inc.

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Kim Chilvers Program Director

Beth Goldberg

Director of Development

Audrey Tormey

Human Resources Director

Shaina Van Pelt Project Manager of IT and

Accreditation

"It has been an honor to be a part of Youth Homes for the last ten years; dedicated staff, volunteers and community partners — working together so foster children can reach their fullest potential. Youth Homes raises the bar — operating with the highest integrity and transparency, while working diligently to continually learn, grow and provide treatment through the use of nationally recognized best practices."

- Kathy Bowles, Board President

THANK YOU

We gratefully recognize our donors who gave in the fiscal year 2015. Thank you for your generosity to the foster youth in our care.

The following list reflects all gifts and pledges received between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015.

Youth Homes is establishing an endowment to ensure long term financial stability for the care of foster youth. All gifts from our Living Legends Program (see page 27) are earmarked for the endowment. A gift to the endowment fund will last in perpetuity.

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

\$75,000 - \$100,000 Libby and Tom Edwards

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

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PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL

\$25,000 - \$49,999

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June Krug

Cariann and Kang Lim Maximus Foundation

"The opportunity and challenges to help make a difference in the lives of the children we care for never gets old. I am truly grateful for the opportunities that Youth Homes has provided for me."

- Donna Heimbruch, employee of 26 years, Residential Supervisor of Andersen House

Barbara and Stuart McCullough Microsoft Matching Gifts Program

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"In 1965, community members identified a critical need for at-risk children and the Auxiliary was conceived. Providing funds for foster children enables them to enjoy real life experiences and amenities so they may blend and compete while they heal and grow."

- Edith Henchey, President of the Youth Homes Auxiliary

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Barbara and Ed Tonningsen Patty and Brian Topkis Audrey and Don Tormey Jessica Nguyen and Phil Tran "One of our fondest memories was hosting a dozen kids and staff to a holiday outing in San Francisco. But, supporting Youth Homes has been deeply meaningful, regardless of whether we meet the children. We know that because of the staff, children may someday create their own wonderful experiences with their own families."

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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this listing. Please direct any questions or concerns to Leslie Harman, Fund Development Associate, at 925-949-5489 or leslieh@youthhomes.org.

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Laura Stark Harriet Stearns Barrett Lindsay Steiner "Becoming Living Legends provided me and my husband the opportunity of bequeathing a gift to Youth Homes; a gift that would not otherwise be possible in our annual giving. We like to think that in some small way we may have made a difference in the lives of foster youth."

- Valerie Ridgers, Board Member and Living Legend

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THE NEXT 50 YEARS

Looking forward there is much change in the foster care system on the horizon; it is being completely redesigned under the rubric of the Continuing Care Reform. Legislation is underway to implement sweeping change in how the foster care system is structured. To be part of the new system, foster care agencies will have to be nationally accredited, have on-site intensive mental health services, be short term in their treatment designs and must have an intensive follow-up capability built into their continuum of care. Youth Homes has been re-designing our treatment system for the past five years in order to be compatible with this long overdue redesign of the foster care system. We will be fully prepared to implement the change when this reform takes place.

Why? Because we have had the resources, we have been able to conceptualize, implement and continuously improve our programs and be flexible and responsive to the changes occurring in the treatment of foster care.

We are humbled by your steadfast support over all these years. We are a strong, competitive and successful nonprofit corporation, prepared to march into the future, come what may — because of each and every one of you.

In our next 50 years, we will be sure that foster children leaving the system have a permanent place to live and continuity of care and support services so they may have a brighter and productive adulthood. The story behind the story:

Daniel requested that we show an actual photograph of him (right) as well as his real name and story in this year's annual report. Read Daniel's story, The Common Thread, on page 5.



DANIEL



The story behind the story:

Nisa granted Youth Homes permission to use her real name, actual photograph (left), and her success story in our publications. Read Nisa's story, Limitless, on page 13.

NISA